

PETER STONE BROWN

May 25, 1998

Hi Rod,

I guess it's fitting that I actually finished the taping of all this stuff on Bob's birthday.

Once again, I'm sorry it took so long, but between taping stuff for some other people, and then receiving a bunch of stuff and not wanting to only listen to Bob, well, you know....

So what you have here is an audio and video tape of Bob and an audio and video tape of me.

Since I couldn't possibly fit a lot of the info onto either the video or the tapes in addition to the fact that my handwriting sucks, I've enclosed some sheets on each.

I've tried to include dates whenever possible, but some stuff I simply forgot to write down and other stuff (on Bob you'll be able to find out in the usual places.)

Now a couple of technical notes on the video. This is my best copy of "Eat the Document." I have another one that's in black and white, but since the film was in color, I wanted you to get a color copy. I got this from someone on the newsgroup. Now if your TV turns off while watching, simply turn it back on. I don't know if this will happen to you. But there's some weird signal in the Eat the Document portion ONLY that sometimes turns my TV off. Very bizarre.

The film will seem very blurry at first, but it does get better or should. The thing about video is each time it's copied it loses a lot of quality (much more than audio tapes) for some reason. So who knows what generation this is, I certainly don't. I haven't seen a better one except when I saw the actual movie in NYC over 25 years ago. To make matters even crazier, Dylan cut it very fast on the eye. Very fast! Somewhere on the web someone must have the *Sing Out!* Magazine interview with John Cohen and Happy Traum where he talks about it. It is a completely insane movie that Bob originally made for an ABC TV special (called Stage '67) that he was supposed to do in 1967. Once you see it you will quickly realize that ABC would *never* have shown this movie. It's sort of like Memphis Blues Again comes to life or something, or *Don't Look Back* a year later with his vision instead of Penebakker's. But there also is some truly amazing footage of parts of songs and some great scenes of him and Robbie picking acoustics and

working out new songs (that nobody has ever heard except for this movie) in hotel rooms.

One of the reasons this took so long is I had to search through a lot of different videos to find the stuff I wanted to give you. In the case of my own stuff, I hadn't watched some stuff in years and discovered stuff I didn't even know I had, so of course I ended up watching a lot of it. What I have is a VCR and a video player that doesn't have a remote and doesn't record. So when I wanted to look for something I kept having to switch players because my VCR is much faster.

Anyway while doing this I discovered that my VCR for some bizarre reason backs up videos slightly when you put them in. So I ended up taping over endings of songs without realizing it and had to record them again (this happened on both videos), which also meant I had to find the originals on the videos all over again. So sometimes you will see spaces between songs to make sure this didn't happen. On the Bob video some songs like Hurricane end before they're actually done. This is the way it is on the copies I have. I didn't have a VCR when a lot of this stuff went down, so I had to rely on other people's copies. I have some better sources now, so if I get better copies of stuff like all the songs (if not the complete John Hammond special) I'll let you know.

On my video, it changes speed -- not on a song somewhere in the middle of the tape from SP to SLP. On my VCR you can't even notice so if you have a VCR that automatically knows the speed you probably won't even notice. To do it over would've meant taping a 3rd time and I just didn't want to delay this any further.

So keep these technical things in mind when watching and enjoy.

The audio tapes were a lot easier, and I noticed while checking my tape one final time that my guitar is out of tune on a song called "Lonesome Surprise." Oh well these things happen. The sound of the guitar ain't what I want it to be either, but that's on the soundman at that particular club.

Anyway, I hope you enjoy this stuff.